

Holmberg, Jerry A (HHS/OPHS)

From: John Trambley [jtrambley@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 4:14 PM
To: ACBSA
Subject: Blood Safety

Dear Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability:

I read an article on CNN.com that you will be having meetings on June 10th and 11th to consider whether men who have had sex even once with another man since 1977 can donate blood. Please keep the current regulations in place.

I donate blood regularly. I regularly submit to the screening process. I think it is necessary to screen out people with risky behaviors. This is not about gay rights. This is about the safety of blood recipients. Lots of people cannot donate. People who have had a recent tatoo or accidental needle stick cannot donate either.

As the article in CNN.com says, "The blood donations go through HIV antigen screening (to detect antibodies produced by the body in response to the virus) and nucleic acid testing. However, there is a "window period" for about two weeks after an individual becomes infected with HIV when these tests cannot detect the virus."

The current testing procedures cannot catch all tainted blood. It would be irresponsible to relax any rules about who can donate.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

John B. Trambley II
Albuquerque, NM

The CNN.com article can be found at:
<http://www.cnn.com/2010/HEALTH/05/25/gay.blood.donation.ban/index.html?hpt=C1>